which envisages inter linkages between various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins for optimum utilization of water resources. The Government of India has established National Water Development Agency as an Autonomous Society in July 1982 to carry out the water balance and other studies of National Perspective Plan.

Clearance to Upper Krishna State-II Projects

302. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether after years of waiting Government have given its technoeconomic clearance to the Upper-Kishna State-II Pojects incluing *Almatti* reservoirs;

(b) if so the details thereof and the estimated cost of the projects; and

(c) the extent of delay suffered for want of such clearance and the cost escalation caused thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Upper Krishna Stage II Multipurpose Project (Irrigation Portion) with Almatti Dam full reservoir level (FRL) at 519.6 metres has been cleared from techno-economic angle at an estimated cost of Rs. 2849.06 crore for providing annual irrigation to an area of 226688 ha.

(c) There is no escalation in cost due to delay in clearance as the matter regarding height of the Almatti Dam was subjudice in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India who gave its Judgement on 25.04.2000

Water Shortage in Rajasthan

303. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been acute shortage of water in Rajasthan for the past one year; and

(b) what are the main causes and the steps taken to overcome this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The main cause of acute shortage of water in Rajasthan is deficient rainfall. For overcoming the shortage Government of Rajasthan have taken up construction of water harvesting structures/Anicuts under various schemes for water recharging besides rehabilitation of traditional methods of water storages like wells, Bawari tanks etc. and conjuctive use of surface and ground water. State Government have also undertaken construction of small structures like check dams, percolation tanks etc. Efforts are also being made to formulate an implement ground water legislation. As a long term measure national Water Development Agency is also carrying out the feasibility studies for interbasin transfer of water which will benefit Rajasthan.

Irrigation Projects in Rajasthan

304. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any provision has been made for irrigation project in Rajasthan to help farmers in view of the drought situation in the State;

(b) if so the nature of the povision made; and

(c) the towns and districts in Rajasthan which are likely to be benefited from the provisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Funds/assistance to fight drought affected situation in the States is not provided by the Ministry of Water Resources. However Ministry is providing Central Loan Assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme for expeditious completion of ongoing major/medium irrigation projects.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Finalization of New Water Policy

305. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since finalized New Water Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when it is likely to be finalized?